from the Railways, Planning Commission, Ministry of Power, Central Electricity Authority and the coal companies etc. While deciding the coal linkages efforts are always made to provide coal linkage to the thermal power stations from a rational source. Since coal reserves are limited to the south eastern part of the country it may not be always possible to provide coal linkage from the mines in that State itself. The whole linkage exercise is an attempt towards optimising the coal supply within overall constraints and other influencing factors mentioned above. Wherever any modifications in long-term linkages become necessary, the same is carried out by another Standing Linkage Committee (Short-Term) which meets once every quarter and on which Ministry of Railways, Power and all Electricity Boards are represented.

EXPANSION OF CALICUT AIRPORT RUNWAY

871. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to extend the run-way of Calicut Airport in order to have more flights connecting Calicut with Hyderabad, Trivandrum, Bangalore and Madras ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : For extension of runway at Calicut airport for Airbus A-300 operations, a feasibility study has been carried out by the National Airports Authority. The study has revealed that the extension of the runway involves extensive cutting of hills and filling up of valleys which is highly cost and time intensive. The estimated cost is of the order of Rs. 50 crores. The National Airports Authority is not in a position to take up this project due to severe financial constraints. The existing airport is, however, suitable for Boeing-737 and Airbus-320 aircraft operations.

Indian Airlines has no plans to connect Calicut with Hyderabad, Trivandrum, Bangalore and Madras.

ANGAMALY-KUMALY-THEKKADY RAILWAY LINE

872. SHRI PALA K. M. MATHEW : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to conduct a survey for a hill railway line through the middle of the Idukki district in Kerala from Angamaly to Kumaly-Thekkady; and

(a) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SETTING UP OF A CRUDE TAR UNIT OF JAKHPURA, ORISSA

873. DR. KARTIKESHWAR PATRA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has represented to the Union Government in response for setting up of a Metallurgical coke unit at Jakhpura in Orissa for creation of further capacity for manufacture of Crude Tar;

(b) whether the Government still plan to set up the unit considering the adequate availability of raw material and infrastructural facilities; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) to (c) Industrial Development Corporation of Orissa Limited had filed an application in 1989 for grant of Industrial Licence for manufacture of metallurgical Coke, tar etc. at Jakhpura, Orissa. The proposal was based on partly imported and partly indigenous coking coal. It was initially rejected due to demand constraints. On representation of the State Government the matter is under reconsideration in Department of Industrial Development.